

Choice of projects to volunteer:

**ABC AmeriCorps of Sauk Valley Community College**

10/29/2021 - 11/11/2021

Nicole Schafer

We have connected with our local nursing homes to determine how many veterans are residing there. During the period of time from 10/29 to 11/11 our members, as well as additional volunteers, will be making patriotic blankets. In addition, our members will be working with the students at their host sites. The elementary students will be coloring pictures and our Jr. High students will be writing letters of thanks for our veterans. All of these items will be put into individual care packages and delivered to our veterans on Vet's day.

Contact Nicole Schafer at: [Nicole.b.schafer@svcc.edu](mailto:Nicole.b.schafer@svcc.edu) or 815-835-6313

**Housing Forward**

11/12/2021 – 10am to 1pm

Sarah Catalano

We will be volunteering at the local Fisher House affiliated with Hines VA Hospital. We will prepare and serve a meal to the veterans currently staying there, and maybe so some housekeeping as well. The Fisher House is a place for vets and their families to stay for free while undergoing treatment at the nearby hospital, and seems like an excellent option for the Veterans' Day of Service.

1851 S. Ninth Avenue, Maywood, IL 60153

Contact Sarah Catalano at [scatalano@housingforward.org](mailto:scatalano@housingforward.org) or 708-338-1724 x239

**Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps Rend Lake College**

November 8 – November 12, 2021

Megan Rounds

Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps members will honor veterans day by assembling bags of essential items for homeless veterans in our area. The bags will consist of a hat, socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo and soap. AmeriCorps members will also have the students they serve make cards that will be delivered to the nursing home at the Marion VA Medical center as well as the hospital. These cards of appreciation will lift the spirits of those veterans who are in the hospital/nursing home.

Contact Steven Grosso at [steven.grosso@teachforamerica.org](mailto:steven.grosso@teachforamerica.org) for specific information

**Lessie Bates Neighborhood House AmeriCorps**

Kwanzaa Wright

11/9/2021

The members will work together as a team and build care packages for the homeless. The care packages will include soap, towels, disinfectant wipes, toothbrush and toothpaste, mouthwash and a snack as well as drink. We will deliver the care packages to the Eagles Nest, a veteran shelter located in East St. Louis. We will also deliver and pass the packages out at St. Vincent Depaul, a homeless shelter in East St. Louis.

Contact Kwanzaa Wright at [kwright@lbdnh.org](mailto:kwright@lbdnh.org) or 618-814-0177

**New Star**

November 1, 2021 8am-4pm

Dominique Hurley

Hosting a Blood Drive

Contact Dominique Hurley at [dhurley@newstarservice.org](mailto:dhurley@newstarservice.org) or 708-829-9241

**UIC Project MORE**

11/12/2021 9am to 3:30pm

Our service project consists of 2 parts. Donation Drive & Drop Off. For the past few years our program has partnered with Volunteers of America to provide veterans living in a housing facility on Chicago's west side with care packages consisting of items requested by the Veterans themselves. Pre-Covid we'd host a pop-up shop and do a coffee and chat mixer. This is no longer allowed since the veterans are considered apart of the vulnerable population. After the drop off members return to our site to discuss plans for next year and why serving veterans is important.

Contact Jeneen Thomas at [jnthomas@uic.edu](mailto:jnthomas@uic.edu) or 312-355-4227

**Belleville AmeriCorps at Southwestern Illinois College**

11/11/2021 at 9:30am

The City of Belleville's 23rd Annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021. The Ceremony includes music, guest speakers, student essays, the distribution of student Veterans Day Cards, and the recognition of local veterans, veteran groups, and active duty personnel from across the area. Belleville AmeriCorps members are instrumental to the ceremony. Members help set-up chairs and tables; greet guests, veterans, military personnel, dignitaries, speakers, and honorees; take names of veterans and their branch of service in order to be recognized; distribute programs; and direct foot and automotive traffic.

Contact Jay Stokes at [jay.stokes@swic.edu](mailto:jay.stokes@swic.edu) or 618-641-5711

**Chicago HOPES for Kids**

11/12/2021

We will be working at Hope Manor II in the Englewood community here in Chicago. This residential living community consists of veterans and housing preference is given to veterans. We will be working on 11/12 to plant tulips and to do a Fall clean up.

Contact Jennifer Harden-Finn at [jen@chicagohopesforkids.org](mailto:jen@chicagohopesforkids.org) or 312-690-4240

**Illinois Bar Foundation – Illinois JusticeCorps**

11/11/2021

Pre-pandemic, 1 in every 7 military families was food insecure (Center for Aging & Policy Studies). Food insecurity risk is also high among veterans, particularly disabled veterans (id.) Most military families are not eligible for SNAP (id.) 20% of all people served by a food bank have some current or former connection to the military (Feeding America). Given these statistics, our program will volunteer at food banks to help these organizations provide food to the people who need it. We will have one group working with the Greater Chicago Food Depository with their Access Ashland Food Truck and one group working with Midwest Food Bank in Bloomington on a tbd project.

Contact Jenna Kearns at [jkearns@iljusticecorps.org](mailto:jkearns@iljusticecorps.org) or 872-444-6620

**United Way of Metro Chicago**

11/11/2021

The engagement opportunity that has been selected is Operation Gratitude. Operation Gratitude sends 250,000+ Care Packages each year to Deployed Troops, Veterans, New Recruits & First Responders. Of all the items included in these Care Packages, the most cherished are the personal letters of appreciation! Operation Gratitude goal is to include several letters and colorful drawings in every Care Package and tell our heroes "WE CARE!" Writing a letter is a meaningful way for Americans to show support for all who serve. It only takes five minutes of your day but will bring lasting joy to the recipients.

Contact Rebecca White at [Rebecca.white@liveunitedchicago.org](mailto:Rebecca.white@liveunitedchicago.org) or 708-275-2021

**Gardeneers**

11/11/2021

AmeriCorps Members will help close out Smyth school and community garden. They will harvest the remainder of produce, chop and drop, and spread leaf mulch. They will distribute harvested produce to veterans and the community.

Contact Leah Goldbloom at [leah@gardeneers.org](mailto:leah@gardeneers.org) or 847-800-1832

**Peace Corps/AmeriCorps Fellows Program at WIU**

11/4/2021 to 11/11/2021

Giving Back to Our Veterans: We are planning to put out donation boxes at each property for residents to donate socks and toiletries and will be giving the items we receive to our local VFW. In addition we are planning on making thank you cards and giving them to resident veterans at the HAMC..

Contact Cortnie Schierman at [cd-schierman@wiu.edu](mailto:cd-schierman@wiu.edu) or 507-649-4099

**Peace Corps/AmeriCorps Fellows Program at WIU**

11/4/2021 to 11/11/2021

Veteran's Day Card Making: A few of our Fellows across rural Illinois are planning to get groups together to create cards for Veterans and handing them out to local organizations associated with Veterans.

Contact Cortnie Schierman at [cd-schierman@wiu.edu](mailto:cd-schierman@wiu.edu) or 507-649-4099

**Peace Corps/AmeriCorps Fellows Program at WIU**

11/9/2021 at 4 pm and 11/11/2021 at 8am

Honoring Veterans in McDonough County: We will be bagging food at a local non profit (Good Food Collaborative) on 11/9 and including a flyer that honors veterans day and thanking our veterans for their service. Volunteers can also help load delivery trucks on Thursday 11/11. Bagging will go from 3-5 on Tuesday and deliveries are from 8-10 on Thursday. Veterans will be included in the volunteering as well as in the people we serve with deliveries.

Contact Cortnie Schierman at [cd-schierman@wiu.edu](mailto:cd-schierman@wiu.edu) or 507-649-4099

**Peace Corps/AmeriCorps Fellows Program at WIU**

11/11/2021 at 4pm

Veterans Day Dinner: Setting up and serving beef and noodles at the American Legion in Sullivan IL then assisting with clean-up

Contact Cortnie Schierman at [cd-schierman@wiu.edu](mailto:cd-schierman@wiu.edu) or 507-649-

**Illinois Public Health Association**

11/12/2021

IPHA AmeriCorps members will be serving alongside other Chicago AmeriCorps programs at the Chicago Furniture Bank. Over the last 3 years CFB has served 514 veterans and their families from every branch of service (minus the space force). During that time they have built bonds with several organizations that work directly with Vets: The Edward Hines VA, the Jesse Brown VA, Featherfist Supportive Services for Veterans' Families, Heartland Alliance, Veterans New Beginnings, Volunteers of America Supportive Services for Veterans' Families, and the True North Project. The AmeriCorps members have been tasked with kitchenware sorting. In addition to matching veterans needs for furniture CFB tries to send all clients home with a fully functional kitchen. Two IPHA AmeriCorps members will participate in this project.

Contact Lanie Kepler at [lkepler@ipha.com](mailto:lkepler@ipha.com) or 217-522-5687

**University of Chicago C4P**

11/10/2021 and 11/11/2021 10am-4pm

Our program is hosting a letter writing campaign with A Million Thanks to create letters to send to veterans and active service members. Our members will have a table in the lobby of our medical center so we can engage visitors, faculty, and staff in this activity. Our members will also be attending events throughout the week hosted by the Office of Military Affiliated Communities on campus to learn about Veteran's affairs and services.

Contact Kelsey Bogue at [kbogue@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:kbogue@bsd.uchicago.edu) or 773-702-4401

**University of Chicago C4P**

11/12/2021 9:30am to 12pm

We will have two members participate in an in person service activity organized by the Greater Chicago Food Depository team at the Furniture Bank, which helps provide furniture and other house supplies to housing insecure veterans.

Contact Kelsey Bogue at [kbogue@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:kbogue@bsd.uchicago.edu) or 773-702-4401

**Greater Chicago Food Depository**

11/12/2021 9:30am to 12pm

For the Veteran's Day of Service this year we will be serving in partnership with other Chicago AmeriCorps programs at the Chicago Furniture Bank. CFS on their work with veterans: "Over the last 3 years we have served 514 veterans and their families from every branch of service. During that time we have built bonds with several organizations that work directly with Vets: The Edward Hines VA, the Jesse Brown VA, Featherfist Supportive Services for Veterans' Families, Heartland Alliance, Veterans New Beginnings, Volunteers of America Supportive Services for Veterans' Families, and the True North Project." The project we have been tasked with is kitchenware sorting – in addition to matching veterans needs for furniture CFB tries to send all clients home with a fully functional kitchen.

Contact Katie Nathenson at [knathenson@gcfd.org](mailto:knathenson@gcfd.org) or 773-648-4941

**Springfield Urban League**

11/11/2021

After serving at the Honors Flights reception annually before COVID. Now we honor the Veterans in the Community with a token of Love and appreciation, a gift bag of goodies and everyday trinkets to use.

Contact Darryl Triggs at [dtriggs@springfieldul.org](mailto:dtriggs@springfieldul.org) or 217-789-0830

**Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois**

11/11/2021 at 4:40pm to 5pm

The week prior to Veterans Day, we will have girls in our troops create thank you cards after they learn about the history of Veteran's Day and why we honor those in the military that serve our Nation. On Veterans Day we will have a brief ceremony at one of our sites. We will have a flag ceremony by girls/AmeriCorps members. Then girls/AmeriCorps members will read some of the thank you cards that are created by girls. We will also offer refreshments and pass the cards out to veterans who attend. Veterans will be entered to win a small token of our appreciation that will be presented at the end of the brief ceremony.

Contact Joselyn Taylor at [jtaylor@girlscoutsnl.org](mailto:jtaylor@girlscoutsnl.org) or 815-354-8739